

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

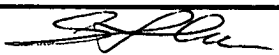
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|   |    |                          |                          |           |
|---|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO   |    | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                          |           |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |    | Application Number       | 10/810,675               |           |
|   |    | Filing Date              | March 29, 2004           |           |
|   |    | First Named Inventor     | Hirokazu YAMAGATA et al. |           |
|   |    | Group Art Unit           | 2811                     |           |
|   |    | Examiner Name            | S. Hu                    |           |
| 1   | of | 1                        | Attorney Docket Number   | 0756-7276 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS          |                       |                      |                                      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup> | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document |                                      | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                                |                       | Number               | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |   |   |   |
| SP                             |                       | 6,512,504            |                                      | Yamauchi et al.                                 | 01/28/2003  |   |
|                                |                       | 6,879,309            |                                      | Yamauchi et al.                                 | 04/12/2005  |   |
|                                |                       | 7,274,349            |                                      | Yamauchi et al.                                 | 09/25/2007  |   |
|                                |                       | 6,359,320            |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 03/19/2002  |   |
|                                |                       | 6,737,717            |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 05/18/2004  |   |
|                                |                       | 7,098,088            |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 08/29/2006  |   |
|                                |                       | 2006/0263955         |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 11/23/2006  |   |
|                                |                       | 6,335,716            |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 01/01/2002  |   |
|                                |                       | 2002/0079484         |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 06/27/2002  |   |
|                                |                       | 2005/0041122         |                                      | Yamazaki et al.                                 | 02/24/2005  |   |
|                                |                       |                      |                                      |   |   |   |
|                                |                       |                      |                                      |   |   |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS       |                       |                         |                     |                                      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup> | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document |                     |                                      | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                                |                       | Office <sup>3</sup>     | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>3</sup><br>(if known) |   |   |   |
| SP                             |                       | JP                      | 2001-013893         |                                      |   | 01/19/2001  | Abst.   |
|                                |                       | JP                      | 2000-156504         |                                      |   | 06/06/2000  | Abst.   |
|                                |                       | JP                      | 11-143379           |                                      |   | 05/28/1999  | Abst.   |
|                                |                       | EP                      | 1 049 176           |                                      |   | 11/2/2000   | Eng.  |
|                                |                       | EP                      | 0 989 614           |                                      |   | 03/29/2000  | Eng.  |

| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>                    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>2</sup> |
|   |                       |   |                |

|                    |   |                 |          |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered | 12/21/07 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.